

20. (Amended) The chewing gum composition of Claim 19 wherein the average sweetness intensity loss rate is less than 0.15 intensity units per minute.

21. (Amended) A chewing gum composition comprising N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester in an amount effective to sweeten said chewing gum composition, wherein a flavor is present in an amount effective to produce a full-flavored chewing gum composition and wherein between 4 and 20 minutes chewing time, the average flavor intensity loss rate is less than 0.1 intensity units per minute.

22. (Amended) The chewing gum composition of Claim 21 wherein an amount of flavor is used which is at least 50% less than the amount of flavor in a full-flavored chewing gum composition, whereby a level of flavor intensity comparable to a full-flavored chewing gum composition is maintained.

23. (Amended) A chewing gum composition comprising N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester in an amount effective to sweeten said chewing gum composition, said composition further comprising a rapid release sweetener.

24. The chewing gum composition according to Claim 23, wherein the rapid release sweetener has a sweetness intensity maximum within the first 2 minutes of chewing.

25. The chewing gum composition according to Claim 23, wherein the rapid release sweetener is selected from the group consisting of sucrose, mannitol, fructose, high fructose corn syrup, sorbitol, dextrose, corn syrup solids, hydrogenated starch hydrolysates, invert sugar, fructose, xylitol, and combinations thereof.

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5480668. The Examiner has stated that, while no claim is allowed, that persuasive data analysis in a declaration/affidavit may result in the allowance of Claims 19-27.

Applicant has canceled all claims except Claims 19-25. Attached hereto is a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 of Glenn Corliss, one of The NutraSweet Company's senior scientists. Applicant believes that this Declaration provides the appropriate data analysis to put Claims 19-25 in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests a two month extension of time to file this response. Please deduct the extension fee and any other necessary fees from Deposit Account 14-1451.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff M. Hoster".

Jeffrey M. Hoster

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